What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus for forming images of originals on sheets, comprising:

5   a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;

a memory for storing sheet types in association with said plurality of feeders; and

a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in

10   accordance with the sheet types stored in said memory.

2. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory stores order of priority between the sheet types, and wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders to be used for the sheet

15   feeding operation in accordance with the sheet types and the order of priority stored in said memory.

3. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to

20   the image forming apparatus, and wherein the sheet types stored in said memory are set through said operating section.

4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an operating section through

25   which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, and wherein the order of priority stored in said memory is set through said

operating section.

5. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a detector for detecting a size of an original, and wherein said memory stores sheet sizes in association with said plurality of feeders, and wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders to be used for the sheet feeding operation in accordance with the size of the original detected by said detector, and the sheet types, the order of priority, and the sheet sizes stored in said memory.

6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said selector carries out selection of one of said plurality of feeders upon start of an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said selector carries out selection of one of said plurality of feeders when a feeder being used has run short of sheets during an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said selector selects a feeder that contains sheets of the same type as the type of the sheet contained in the feeder which has run short of sheets.

9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said selector selects a feeder other than a feeder containing sheets of at least one predetermined type.

10. An image forming apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a post processor for carrying out post processing on sheets having images formed thereon, and wherein said selector selects a feeder in

5 accordance with a type of the post processing carried out by said post processor and the sheet types stored in said memory.

11. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selector selectively executes either a

10 first mode of operation in which selection is made from among feeders containing sheets of a first type, or a second mode of operation in which selection is made from among feeders containing sheets of the first type and feeders containing sheets of a second type.

15 12. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets and for forming images of originals on sheets, the method comprising:

a first step of storing sheet types in association

20 with said plurality of feeders;

a second step of storing order of priority between the sheet types; and

a third step of selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in

25 accordance with the sheet types stored in said first step and the order of priority stored in said second step.

13. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said image forming apparatus includes an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to

5 the image forming apparatus, the sheet types stored in said first step being set through said operating section.

14. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said image

10 forming apparatus includes an operating section on which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, the order of priority stored in said second step being set through said operating section.

15 15. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a fourth step of detecting a size of an original, and a fifth step of storing sheet sizes in association with said plurality of feeders, and wherein said third step

20 comprises selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for the sheet feeding operation in accordance with the size of the original detected in said fourth step, the sheet types stored in said first step, the order of priority stored in said second step, and the

25 sheet sizes stored in said fifth step.

16. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said third

step comprises carrying out selection of one of said

plurality of feeders upon start of an image forming

operation by said image forming apparatus.

17. A method of controlling an image forming

5   apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said third

step comprises carrying out selection of one of said

plurality of feeders when a feeder being used has run

short of sheets during an image forming operation by

said image forming apparatus.

10   18. A method of controlling an image forming

apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said third

step comprises selecting a feeder that contains sheets

of the same type as the type of the sheet contained in

the feeder which has run short of sheets.

15   19. A method of controlling an image forming

apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said third

step comprises selects a feeder other than a feeder

containing sheets of at least one predetermined type.

20. A method of controlling an image forming

20   apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said image

forming apparatus includes a post processor for

carrying out post processing on sheets having images

formed thereon, and said third step comprises selecting

a feeder in accordance with a type of the post

25   processing carried out by said post processor and the

sheet types stored in said memory.

21. A method of controlling an image forming

apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feeding

sheets and for forming images of originals on sheets,

the method comprising:

a first step of storing sheet types in association

5   with said plurality of feeders; and

a second step of selecting one of said plurality

of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in

accordance with the sheet types stored in said first

step;

10   wherein said second step comprises selectively

executing either a first mode of operation in which

selection is made from among feeders containing sheets

of a first type, or a second mode of operation in which

selection is made from among feeders containing sheets

15   of the first type and feeders containing sheets of a

second type.

22. A storage medium storing a control program

for controlling an image forming apparatus including a

plurality of feeders for feeding sheets and for forming

20   images of originals on sheets, the storage medium being

readable by the image forming apparatus, the control

program comprising:

a first code for storing sheet types in

association with said plurality of feeders;

25   a second code for storing order of priority

between the sheet types; and

a third code for selecting one of said plurality

of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with the sheet types stored in said first code and the order of priority stored in said second code.

5   23. A storage medium storing a control program for controlling an image forming apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets and for forming images of originals on sheets, the storage medium being readable by the image forming apparatus, the control

10   program comprising:

a first code for storing sheet types in association with said plurality of feeders; and

a second code for selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in

15   accordance with the sheet types stored in said first code;

wherein said second code executes either a first mode of operation in which selection is made from among feeders containing sheets of a first type, or a second

20   mode of operation in which selection is made from among feeders containing sheets of the first type and feeders containing sheets of a second type.